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United States Food & Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room #1061
Rockville, Maryland 20785

Dear FDA:

We must protect sick and injured farm animals from further abuse and neglect. The Farm Sanctuary's petition, Docket #98P-0151/CP1, will provide these animals with humane care or a painless death.

If you grant this petition, it will stop the sale of downed animals at the 1,600 stockyards across the country. It is with great sadness that I present the following account as told by Becky Sandstedt, who witnessed the brutality that "downers" were subjected to at the South St. Paul, Minnesota, stockyard:

"An emaciated old holstein cow, with swollen joints and a bloody udder oozing with infection, lies across her dead companion -- right where she was tossed. A chain is put around her infected foreleg and a winch begins to drag her across the stockyard floor. She bellows in agony. Her eyes bulge with confusion and pain. Oblivious to her distress, the chain tightens and tears her tender ligaments. For her, the end is not yet near.

"A group of desolate hogs is nestled in a corner of the 'cripple pen.' Without warning, a cattle prod is shoved against their pale skins. Squeals of panic linger in the air. Some hogs manage to crawl, maneuvering their disabled bodies up the ramp onto the double decker 18-wheeler truck. One frightened hog garners enough strength to stand but then collapses. Showing no sympathy, the trucker grabs her delicate ear and relentlessly drags her body up the ramp into the slaughter truck echoing with terror."

Please stop the pain. Your comments on this issue will be most appreciated.

Yours truly,

James M. Shea

James M. Shea, Retired FOA.

98P-0151

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